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## NOTES AND ABSTRACTS

**The Obstacles to Eugenics.**—Eugenics, selection for parenthood, has six obstacles: first, that as the complexity, the individuality, the organic worth of the organism, increases, its fertility declines. The birth-rate is lower in higher civilization and it is lower, within a given civilization, in those classes where the standard of life, i.e., of individuation, is higher; progress is possible only on condition of rigorous selection; otherwise low quantity will beat high quality. Second, the ignorance created by modern "education," of biology, of the function of education itself, of facts such as those relating to the mentally-defective members of the community. Third, misrepresentation by friends. Fourth, prudery, which does not permit us to teach people elementary facts about parenthood. Fifth, our bias as regards which social class is biologically the higher; as regards race, our political bias. Sixth, anti-eugenic practices, such as taking healthy uninstructed youths and putting them into military or other environments where they are liable to be infected by disease of racial significance; discouragement to marry for the most intelligent members of the community, such as school-teachers, municipal officials, etc.; misguided philanthropy which permits the feeble-minded to marry, etc.—C. W. Salesby, *Sociological Review*, July, 1909. F. F.

**Influence of the Heredity on Human Society.**—Besides the question of the influence on human society of protoplasm deficient in characters that determine sensitiveness, energy, proper association of ideas, inhibitions and other qualities that go to make up a normal, moral, effective man, and on the other hand the precious heritage in the extraordinarily favorable combinations of favorable characters found in certain grand families, the question of questions for eugenics is: How shall the inroads of degeneracy be prevented and the best of our human qualities preserved and disseminated among all the people? First, the scandal of illegitimate reproduction among imbeciles must be prevented. Second, the old idea that there is in society any class superior to any other class must be abandoned. It is the *characteristics* of the germ-plasm and not individuals as a whole that are favorable or prejudicial to human society. Perhaps the greatest need of the day for the progress of social science is additional precise data as to the unit characteristics of man and their methods of inheritance.—Charles B. Davenport, *Annals Amer. Acad.*, July, 1909. F. F.

**The Reports on the Poor Law.**—The majority and minority reports of the Royal Commission on the Poor Law deal each with three matters perfectly distinct from one another. First, both contain a description of the miserable condition of the poor in the United Kingdom, and of the aggravation of their sufferings by the existing administration of the Poor Law; second, both contain an exposition of the fundamental principles upon which reform should proceed; third, both contain suggestions of the particular machinery by which reform is to be effected. On the first two points, the reports are in practical agreement, on the third they are diametrically opposed to each other. The majority would replace the Board of Guardians by a Board of Public Assistance, much the same thing by a new name, and the Workhouse by seven separate institutions: for children, for the aged and infirm, for the sick, for able-bodied men, for able-bodied women, for vagrants, and for the feeble-minded; while the minority propose to relegate the non-able-bodied poor to departments, local and central, already dealing with similar cases and overlapping the administration of the Poor Law, and to create a new central and national department of state to deal with the able-bodied. The question then is, in connection with the non-able-bodied poor, shall new committees deal with them? And in connection with

the able-bodied and unemployed poor, shall the authority dealing with them be local or national?—John E. Garst, *Sociological Review*, July, 1909. F. F.

**Some Impediments to Woman Suffrage.**—One would suppose the claims of the suffragist stirring enough to rouse the most indifferent, so what have really been the impediments to granting the suffrage to woman? The thorough reform in the laws regarding women is unquestionably one, the great respect which the American man has for the American woman, another. The American woman of today, the average woman is farther in advance of the average woman of other countries than in any other class of our population, and all this *without* the ballot. The tendency to ally with socialism, the emptiness of the promises to the wage-earner, the groundlessness of the cry, "Taxation without representation is tyranny," the fundamental truth that government is the work of the man because it depends on him alone for its very existence, the failure of suffrage in the four suffrage states—these are some of the impediments in the way of the woman suffragists. But the most important of all lies in the long-continued indifference of the great mass of the people. The American man feels that he is and must be the "protector" of his "women folk." He dimly feels that the demand of women for the ballot to "protect themselves" is inconsistent with this protectorate. When men come to feel that they are no longer women's protectors, and when women look to the ballot rather than to men for protection, then woman-suffrage will be a necessity and public opinion will be clamoring for it. Until then the American public will be indifferent.—Mrs. Gilbert E. Jones, *No. Am. Rev.*, August, 1909. F. F.

**Domestic Science in the Schools and Colleges.**—There is a large class of careless, apathetic, ambitionless women, who are satisfied with the treadmill way in which they manage their homes. There is another class of women—those who have studied the subject of housekeeping and realize that the health, energy, morals, habits, manners, appearance, success, and happiness of the members of the family depend on the home and deplore that so few women receive any training to fit themselves for the position of home-makers. The ill effects of ignorance of household art and science are found everywhere, in homes, boarding-houses, restaurants, and hotels. The effects of teaching household art and science in the public schools and of inspiring high ideals of home-making, are incalculable. The improvement of the home is one of the greatest moral reforms and the greatest social reform to be brought about.—Helen Sayr Gray, *No. Am. Rev.*, August, 1909.

F. F.

**Helpless Youths and Useless Men.**—There are gross errors in the education of boys, such as the idea that all boys are alike mentally, physically, etc., and likewise that they should be trained along the same lines as girls, that they may be trained by ignorant women teachers with no knowledge of their special problems. These errors coming out in our educational curriculum, involving unsuitable subjects, taught by inefficient people, result in a large class of useless, because ill-taught, men.—William Lee Howard, Md., *American Magazine*, November, 1908.

F. F.

**German Social Policy.**—A system of social care has grown up in Germany which challenges the admiration of the world. Arising in a sense of national duty and of a mission to mankind, German idealism realized the dependence of it on economizing and augmenting the resources of soil, mines, and men. This they set to work at in a scientifically guided way. Thus the social policy of the German Empire means a system of regulations and positive legislation aiming at direct improvement in the physical, economic and cultural conditions of the masses of the people.—C. R. Henderson, *Chatauquan*, November, 1908. F. F.

**The Social Application of Eugenics.**—Eugenics has two aims, the production of the best and the rearing of the best types, and each of these has a social as well as an individual aspect, and involves a study of environing con-

ditions as well as of individual characters. This involves knowledge of genealogy, type, and human pairing. As to types there are healthy and unhealthy susceptibilities to disease, the latter, the exception. The popular side of Eugenics is as important as the scientific, because without popular assistance, we cannot get data. The method suggested is the working through the medical advisers of each family, secrecy being guaranteed, getting rid of the popular delusion that heredity is fatalistic, by teaching solid truths about child and adult individualities.—J. Lionel Taylor, *Westminster Review*, October, 1908. F. F.

**France and Her Vanishing Population.**—The problem overshadowing all others in France is her gradually diminishing birth-rate. Twenty years ago, the average number of births per marriage was three, and now it is scarcely two; and this coincident with the soil's increased productivity through scientific tillage and use of machinery. Thrift, the essence and foundation of French character, is responsible for the controlled birth-rate, aided by the law of equal testamentary division of property among children and the dowry system.—Frederick Courtland Penfield, *North American Review*, November, 1908. F. F.

**Militant Tactics and Woman's Suffrage.**—It is unfair to upbraid women for their militant tactics, in the suffragette movement. When women possess full human and civic rights, they may justly be called upon in common with other possessors of such rights, to confine themselves to constitutional measures, but since quiet appeals of forty or fifty years failed to obtain a hearing, it can hardly be said that constitutional measures of any sort of efficacy are really open to them. Not having the vote, they cannot get the vote. A state which refuses ordinary constitutional means of expression and self-defense to half its members, must not be surprised if they resort to unauthorized ones.—*Westminster Review*, December, 1908. F. F.

**The Spiritual Unrest.**—"Forty Protestant churches in various parts of the country—not to speak of hundreds of Christian Science churches—are now conducting 'religious clinics' or health services for the healing of the sick. Beginning with the work of the Rev. Dr Elwood Worcester and his associate, Rev. Dr. Samuel McComb, at Emmanuel Church in Boston in 1906, the movement has spread with a rapidity which indicates that it must have met a genuine human need." This movement is a belated effort of the church to get into line with modern psychological results and to apply the great power latent in suggestion to the alleviation of diseased and overstrained conditions of mind and body. Actual cases of treatment by suggestion are described. The work of eminent psychologists and physicians in the movement is touched upon, and criticisms, as well as the limitations of the work, are dealt with.—Ray Stannard Baker, *American Magazine*, December, 1908. H. M.

**Eigentumsempfindung und Diebstahlsrecht, insbesondere bei den naturvölkern.**—Travelers often complain of the thievishness of savage races. They have generally drawn their conclusions on the basis of the treatment they have themselves been subjected to. These conclusions cannot be taken as an indication of the moral standard existing within the tribe. In the majority of cases which have been observed, property rights are carefully upheld by uncivilized peoples, within their own social groups, and often in their dealings with strangers as well. Errors of judgment often arise through the application of our moral ideals, and our property-concepts to primitive peoples. Ideas of property, like other moral relations, depend upon the conditions under which the group has developed, and upon the stage which that development has attained.—Dr. Edward Westermarck, *Zeitschrift für Sozialwissenschaft*. H. M.

**Soziologie und Geschichtswissenschaft.**—Some have in recent times denied that history is a science because it does not attempt to discover laws, but only to state events. History may be defined as the science of succession or continuity. It has to do with the sequence and coexistence of occurrences. According to my conception, sociology is the science of the coherence of phenomena, the science of the typical successions of phenomena. It is the extract

of history, the quintessence of all previous experience in relation to social continuity and causality, in relation to social sequence and coexistence, and, to essential social co-ordination and succession. Sociology is the science of the social forces, of statics and dynamics, of latent possibilities of development as well as the science for social understanding; while history has only to do with the line of development of historic facts. Sociology has more than the right of existence. It is necessary that we have the results of this centralized, systematically rearranged, exactly consolidated science. Sociology is also the science of social values. Anthropology, economics, and the like are twigs of sociology, which in turn is more than social psychology, or the philosophy of history. The sociological conception of history breaks with both the implicit passivity of the idealistic, and the fatalism of the materialistic conception of history. It will lead us to an active world-conception and will make history the great schoolmaster that it should be for all time to mankind.—Rudolf Goldscheid, *Annalen der Naturphilosophie*, July, 1908. L. W.

**The Present Position of Social Legislation in England.**—Without implying the acceptance of complete socialism, progress will, for some time to come have to take a socializing direction. Those great services which are necessarily of a local and monopolistic character have been taken over by the municipalities. Old age pensions are provided, hours of adult workers in mines are regulated, etc. Two new and enormous undertakings, the provision of work for the unemployed, and the regulation of wages, are being urged upon the state. A state of affairs in which, as soon as it pays an employer to drop a man, he will be taken care of by the state until it suits an employer to engage him again, will facilitate the alternate expansion and contraction of the labor force, and will remove some of the existing obstacles of ruthless competition. Where the government is the indirect employer a minimum wage ought to be insisted upon for all labors, as is the policy of municipalities and co-operative wholesale societies. There is immediate need of new modern machinery of state control.—W. J. Ashley, *Economic Review*, October, 1908. L. W.

**The Class Struggle of Today.**—In the midst of vast natural resources, with plenty of machinery of production and transportation, and with millions of workers willing to work for the welfare of their country, multitudes are idle and therefore forced to live in constant privation. The mighty magnates of industry who control the machinery of production selfishly, propose to crush organized labor, to decrease the wages of the masses, to deprive the workers of economic and social rights. The progressive workers are becoming class-conscious and though misinterpreted by a reactionary press, and harrassed by the policeman, they propose to enter the political field, under the red banner of the brotherhood of man, so as to secure the social ownership of the means of life. Economic evolution brought about industrial concentration and caused the appearance of classes in the human family. It will also inaugurate industrial co-operation and eliminate class distinction. The class struggle is on. A new social order is being born in our national life. Economic forces, reason, and justice force it to the front.—Saul Beaumont, *The Arena*, November, 1908. L. W.

**Socialist Ideals.**—Though socialism has been called materialistic, it is really the most idealistic movement of the centuries. We are living under an industrial absolutism where the masters of the machine may cut off at will the means of life of millions. Socialism proposes to put industry in control of the people so that they may be freed from the tribute of profit to the vested interests. Then, there will be opportunities for productive labor, for education, for home and family life, for freedom of action which shall make the making of a living a simple, easy thing, possible to all; and beyond this lies the great hope of being able to live, to *really live*. When the bread-and-butter problem is settled, and all men, women, and children are rendered secure from dread of war and fear of want, then the mind and soul will be free to develop as they never were before.—E. V. Debs, *The Arena*, November, 1908. L. W.

**Democracy and the Expert.**—We have made ourselves the laughing-stock of the world by our easy credulity toward any political quack and by our unwillingness to appeal to the men who have devoted years to the special study of a matter that comes before a legislative committee. But democracy's attitude toward the expert is the result of the expert's attitude toward the common people. The doctor, the lawyer, the man of science, the railroad president, has declared: "You do not and cannot know. The things I deal with are of a sort from the comprehension of which you are by nature excluded. No amount of study on your part, no explanation on mine, would be of any use." Their attitude toward the layman has been esoteric and mystical. Let the expert frankly submit himself and his knowledge to the judgment of the lay intelligence and he will find that the people will have faith in him as they had in Lincoln in a supreme crisis. Let the expert popularize his knowledge and draw aside the curtain that shields his mysteries and he will gain increased respect from his fellow-citizens and will be of greater social service.—Joseph Lee, *Atlantic Monthly*, November, 1908. L. W.

**Social Inequality and Social Progress.**—There is nothing more interesting to the social student at the present time than the character of the dissatisfaction which is spreading among the poorer and middle classes regarding existing social and industrial condition. The cause of this movement is striking artificial inequalities—surpassing riches and dire poverty. There is no greater obstacle to the progress of mankind than the artificiality which creates social inequality. The strength of the modern movement is in an awakening consciousness among all classes that life must be humanized; that radical changes in the social environment must be introduced scientifically so as to give mankind a chance to rise. Mankind is enslaved economically and, accordingly, socially so that intellectual and political freedom has become practically valueless to the great mass. The work of civilization is to leaven primitive tendencies by creating new motives. The greatest obstacle to social improvement is not human nature, but the distorted, artificialized nature which bad environment has created. There is nothing human in it. That stupendous social changes are impending is manifest to those who recognize the influence of diffused education and quickened social feeling.—R. G. Davis, *Westminster Review*, October, 1908. L. W.

**Dépopulation et Sensualité.**—It becomes increasingly more difficult to consummate marriage and more easy to break it. The sexual desire grows while the wish for children diminishes. The economic problem is not the only one in the situation. It is necessary to fall back upon *l'individualisme amoureux* and the *sensualité* of the Latin race to which the child is the enemy. There is a growing separation in the consciousness of women between the sex desire and that of maternity. The whole situation must be traced back to the intense individualism and crowded condition of modern life.—Alfred de Tarde, *Revue de Psychologie Sociale*, January, 1908. L. L. B.

**Is an Honest Newspaper Possible?**—There is now a strong demand for truth and honesty in news to which it would seem the great dailies would respond. But frequently their policies are largely controlled by advertisers upon whom they are dependent for support. In other cases they are prejudiced or lack intelligent editing. No New York daily is both honest and popular. The need is for an independent newspaper to correspond to the newly arisen independent voter.—A New York Editor, *Atlantic*, October, 1908. L. L. B.

**Alcohol and the Community.**—"One-third of all the recognized pauperism in the most highly civilized communities of Christendom results from bodily and mental insufficiency due to alcoholic indulgence." Fully one-fourth of all cases of insanity, two-fifths of neglected or abandoned children, one-half of the moral delinquencies of convicts, and four-fifths of the cases in jails and work-houses—to say nothing of the much larger percentage of cases of less overt misery in life, are due to the same cause.—Henry Smith Williams, LL.D., *McClures*, December, 1908. L. L. B.

**La méthode sociologique appliquée aux faits économiques.**—Since experimentation in social matters is impossible, close observation and registration of facts are necessary. The opportunity for this is best in connection with economic phenomena. These must be interpreted according to their causes rooted in the phenomena of life. A proper perspective of human action as a whole, including the genesis of institutions and customs, the social relations of the individual at the present, and the economic conditions of subsistence in which society finds itself, alone is sufficient for a proper, a sociologic, interpretation of economic facts.—Paul Fauconnet, *Revue de synthèse historique*, April, 1908. L. L. B.

**The Oligarchic Tendencies of Association.**—The present study proposes a contribution to the problem of democracy which, though much discussed, can in no way be considered as solved. The strictest form of oligarchy, namely, absolute monarchy, established on divine right, is based on the individual will of the ruler, has supernatural justification, and exists independently of and superior to human judgment. In opposition to the principle of monarchy stands that of democracy, which concedes to every citizen equal civic rights and theoretically also the possibility of social success, by denying all privileges of birth before the law and letting the struggle for superiority in human society be determined by individual efficiency alone. In national life today, instead of standing in absolute antithesis, these two abstract principles really touch at many points. As a reaction from the democracy cult of the socialistic schools a group of conservative thinkers, represented in Italy by Gaetano Mosca, assert of every form of human society the inherent necessity of a politically dominant class, a ruling minority. They postulate the theory that the perpetual struggles between aristocracy and democracy, which history records, have consisted merely in conflicts between an old minority fighting for survival and a new minority ambitious for power and seeking to fuse with or overthrow the old. Today, moreover, democracy being the watchword, every faction speaks and contends in the name of the people and common welfare. They reinforce their respective claims by ethical sanctions. Every government must obtain for its actual authority the support of an ethical generality. Among the anti-democratic tendencies making for the differentiation and persistence of a political ruling class must be noted first, the principle of the inheritance of political power which is a constant factor; and secondly, the political indifference of the majority and its dependence on leadership, which increases with the complexity of political organization and the specialization of administrative functions. A bureaucracy, necessitated by the organization of government, is a powerful constituent force for maintaining the ascendancy of the ruling class. The impulse to self-preservation forces the modern state to enlist the support of the greatest possible number of interested individuals, and it achieves this end by attracting to itself a numerous army of dependent officials constantly recruited from a vast intellectual proletariat. Under pretense of representing general interests the state usurps the most diverse functions and extends increasingly its sphere of influence.

The oligarchic tendency lies in the nature of organization itself. Originally the leader is merely the executive organ of the will of the many. The democratic principle guarantees to the greatest possible number influence and participation in the administration of their interests; but the technical specialization, the necessary consequence of extensive organization, creates the necessity for "business-like management," and transfers from the masses to the leader all their powers of control. It definitely effects the division of every party into a leading minority and a led majority. Every organization as such favors the growth of oligarchy. Parliamentary representation is only constructively popular co-operation in government, and is in reality an oligarchic phenomenon. Elective leadership in time comes to be regarded by the leader as his right, and renders all democracy in the situation illusory. Oligarchic tendencies in states do not essentially differ from those in proletarian organizations, where they would be least looked for; they have in fact developed farthest and most disastrously in the case of the American laboring classes. First, the skilled, better-paid elements among the workers themselves show a disposition to segregate themselves from

their unskilled and poorer comrades, and in a class of their own to engage in a fierce competitive struggle with the latter; and secondly, the leaders sooner or later sever their connection with their own class in order to join the ranks of the bourgeois group.

The lesson of history seems to be that no popular movement, however forceful and energetic, can produce lasting and organic changes in the social structure of civilized mankind, because the most prominent elements of that popular movement itself, the men who once led and inspired it, ever gradually desert the masses only to be absorbed by the "political class," to which they contribute their youthful energy and practical intelligence, thus preserving it in a continually renewed process of rejuvenation.—Robert Michels, "Die oligarchischen Tendenzen der Gesellschaft." *Archiv für Sozialwissenschaft und Sozialpolitik*, July, 1908. P. W.

**The Problem of the Whole and the Part.**—Excluding from the whole range of possible complexes those which are produced by the action of the synthetic judgment, i. e., are conceptual and not real complexes, there still remain two kinds of objectively given real combinations. These are, first, agglomerations or homogeneous accumulations in which the properties of the whole are derivable from those of the component parts; and, secondly, systematic aggregations proper, self-coherent collectivities or organisms, which contain within themselves their unifying causes. Sociological interest centers in the latter category. While the old question of priority between part and whole is shown to be abortive by their consideration as correlative concepts, the problem of their relative growth and decay resolves into three possibilities, viz. integration, dissolution, or simultaneous integration and dissolution. Every step in the integration or formation of new systematic combinations is an act in the creation of new qualities; by producing new form and quantity relations integration brings into being new qualities. Quantity and form are the two fundamental properties of all things, and in their variation quality operates as a function. New properties arise in substances as a consequence of accumulation, e. g., increased intensity of sense stimulation changes pleasure into pain sensations. The dependence of quality on form and arrangement is quite as definite as the effect of quantity, e. g., the production of a work of art from a shapeless lump of potter's clay. Integration is change of quantity and magnitude relations as well as of the grouping, arrangement, form of substances, i. e., of the true bearers of all quality. The whole and the part are relative concepts. Logically, therefore, the whole cannot change but through the changes of the parts, and vice versa. No part of the social whole, moreover, can sustain change, in any sense whatever, without a corresponding transformation in all the other parts, and conversely, any part may become indirectly the initial point for the transformation of the whole. Changes in the parts of society, its constituent elements (race), are at once changes in society itself. Improvement of race is *ipso facto* society improvement.—A. Nordenholz, "Das Problem vom Ganzen und vom Teil," *Archiv für Rassen- und Gesellschafts Biologie*, April, 1908. P. W.

**A National Children's Bureau.**—The National Child Labor Committee has issued the following bulletin:

A bill to establish a National Children's Bureau was introduced in the United States Senate in the winter of 1905-6 at the request of the National Child Labor Committee. The bill did not come to vote although it received the hearty indorsement of President Roosevelt and Secretary Hitchcock of the Department of the Interior as well as of many members of both Houses of Congress.

More recent reports from various government departments emphasize the need for a bureau devoted specifically to the interests of the child. Such a bureau should investigate and report upon all matters pertaining to the welfare of children and child-life and would especially investigate questions of infant mortality, the birth-rate, physical degeneracy, orphanage, juvenile delinquency and juvenile courts, desertion and illegitimacy, employment, dangerous occupations, accidents and diseases of children of the industrial classes, legislation



affecting children in the several states and territories, and such other facts as have a bearing upon the health, efficiency, character and training of children.

The following arguments and opinions are presented for consideration:

"There should be a children's bureau in one of the departments of the federal government, dealing exclusively with the problems of childhood. Such a body of experts working under the direction of the best trained specialist in the country could bring together the statistical results of the census, without duplicating any statistical inquiry now carried on, and could formulate schedules and questions for further statistical inquiry. Through the agency of traveling experts the bureau would report upon the exceptional conditions with respect to high or low birth-rate, high or low infant mortality, the conditions of excessive juvenile crime, the most successful methods of dealing with problems presented in children's courts, the reasons for child labor in particular industries, the operation of successful child-labor laws, the methods of meeting the problem of juvenile dependency, and many other allied questions.

"Systematic and co-ordinated inquiry, investigation and report, in the form of bulletins available as a basis for legislative and administrative action by state and municipal officials and by the means of agents of private societies, would immeasurably increase the effectiveness of the work now being done in education, philanthropy and preventive social work."—Samuel McCune Lindsay, Director, New York School of Philanthropy.

"The federal government does not even afford up-to-date information concerning the children. We need full, consecutive, trustworthy, current information concerning the children of our nation. This can be obtained only through a bureau devoted to them which should issue promptly the data gathered by the census and the departments of education and labor, not, as now occurs, years after the figures have lost their chief value and have become ancient history."—Mrs. Florence Kelly, General Secretary, National Consumers' League.

"If the bureau is established it will not be entirely unique. The same work has been done for years by the central governments of France, Germany, and England. The United States stands alone among great nations in its apparent apathy toward its children. It is almost the only central government of highly civilized people which has done what seems to be almost nothing to promote the healthy growth and development of children. The reasons are plain enough. The central government is obliged to leave most special legislation to the state governments."—Editor of the *New York Evening Post*.

"The children's bureau contemplated in this bill will not duplicate any work that is now being done by the national government, but it will co-ordinate and render effective for practical uses, at a very small cost, much that is now done at a very great expense."—Editor of the *Lowell (Mass.) Times*.

"A national bureau would not only provide for the welfare of the child directly in many matters that cannot be provided for by the state, but it would also aid the state in bettering the condition of its children in various ways. There would be a co-operation—a communion of interest—that could only result in the betterment of childhood, and, therefore, of manhood and womanhood. It is not merely a question of child labor; not merely a question of education; of healthful food; of proper clothing; of proper homes. The movement carries with it everything that pertains to the good of the child, mentally, morally, and physically."—Miss Lillian D. Wald, Nurses' Settlement, New York City.

The following paragraphs are from the July 4, 1908, issue *Charities and the Commons*, by the Editor, Edward T. Devine:

"A convincing argument in favor of the plan for the bureau in the interests of children in the federal government is to be found in the handbook of child-labor legislation of which the new annual edition has just been issued by the Consumers' League. The admirable, brief introduction to this publication refers directly to this subject among others, but the facts concerning the chaotic and, even yet, on the whole, backward condition of the legislation on this subject in our several states, speak even more eloquently of the need for further public enlightenment. The existing Bureau of Labor, Census Bureau, Bureau of Public

Health and Marine Hospital Service, and Bureau of Education, all have certain limited and fragmentary responsibilities for the welfare of the nation's children.

"Even these responsibilities, however, might be discharged far more completely if they were concentrated. The labor of children enters into the relations between employer and employee, and into the general question of the condition of labor with which the Federal Bureau of Labor deals, but this very fact is anomalous and deplorable. There should be no such thing as child labor, and while it exists it should have the serious attention of the government, not as a normal condition to be investigated and regulated like adult labor in mines and factories, but as an abnormal and temporary condition to be eliminated as speedily as possible. It should be investigated and dealt with not as an industrial or commercial problem, but as one affecting the very life and well-being of the race, as a problem of health, education, morals, and social economy. With all recognition of the usefulness of such partial and sporadic attention as the Labor Bureau has been able to give the subject, it is obvious that the interests of children are literally of vital national concern and that they should be approached from quite another point of view than that from which strikes, wages, and the conditions of adult labor are appropriately treated. Nor does the Census Bureau serve the purpose which a bureau of children would serve. The collection of certain very limited, statistical information at stated periods is of value. Unfortunately we have not much of it, and what we have is out of date when it appears. The handbook repeats the strictures often made in its earlier editions on the federal and state governments, that they should leave to a private agency the collection and dissemination of this information concerning the statutes now in force prohibiting or restricting child labor, either directly or through provisions for compulsory school attendance. Slow and antiquated methods of making available the results of investigations of the Census Bureau in this field go far to destroy what value they might otherwise have, and the scope of such inquiries as have been made is so narrow as to leave us in helpless and humiliating ignorance. Quantitative investigations may be made by the Census Bureau, but we need a children's bureau to determine what information is desirable and to consider what to do after it has been obtained.

"The rudimentary Bureau of Public Health in the Treasury Department commands constantly increasing respect for its work in controlling epidemics and its scientific inquiries in various directions, notably, for example, in its current investigation of the hook worm. If this bureau should eventually outgrow the limitations imposed by its origin in the Marine Hospital service, and should become in reality a bureau of public health, it would naturally include within its activities the investigation of many problems connected with epidemic and infectious diseases of children and other dangers to their health.

"But a children's bureau would seek to promote the health, vigor, physical well-being, and efficiency of children, and would thus begin where a health bureau ends. It would utilize the results of all investigations by Labor Bureau, Census Bureau, and Health Bureau, so far as they bear upon the welfare of children. It would directly concern itself with the improvement of the human race by the improvement of its physical and mental stock. Even the Bureau of Education, however active and efficient it may become, cannot cover the wide range of activities which would naturally devolve upon the children's bureau. Orphanage, illiteracy, illegitimacy, infant mortality, race suicide and race degeneracy, child dependency, juvenile delinquency with all its attendant issues of children's courts, reformatory, probation and parental schools, and the more complete socializing of the public-school system, with the broad issues which this involves, are among the problems which we now neglect entirely or in part, but which are of national importance, and which in the degree and manner proposed are clearly within the constitutional province of the federal government.

"It is not suggested that the national government should take up all or perhaps any of these subjects for direct remedial or preventive legislation. Research and publicity, on lines strictly analogous to the well-established activities of many existing bureaus, is the aim of those who advocate the children's bureau,

among whom this journal has long since gladly enrolled. The National Child Labor Committee and the National Consumers' League are, so far as we are aware, the only other agencies which are persistently and continuously working to bring public opinion to the support of this measure so clearly in the public interests, so certain to be opposed, just as the Bureau of Forestry and other of our present bureaus are opposed because they expose and undermine the selfish and anti-social policies of a comparatively few individuals of the exploiting class. We hope that others—organizations and individuals—will rally to the support of the proposed children's bureau."

The National Child Labor Committee solicits the co-operation of all industrial, civic, philanthropic, religious, and social organizations in bringing this important measure properly before Congress in the session of 1908-9. Communications of suggestion or inquiry, from organizations or individuals, may be addressed to Owen R. Lovejoy, General Secretary, 105 East 22d Street, New York.